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Disaster
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May 20, 1994

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Touma
Director of Logistics and Operations, Acting
Office of Humanitarian and Refugee Affairs
Department of Defense

FROM: Frances Cook
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT: Disaster Relief for Rwandan Refugees and Displaced
Persons

The Department of State requests that the Department of Defense provide transportation for disaster relief supplies for use by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in their support for Rwandan refugees and displaced persons. UNHCR is requesting an in-kind contribution of airlift support to enable the delivery of relief supplies UNHCR is providing in response to the Rwandan emergency. We request that this support be provided under the authority of Title II of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1994 (P.L. 103-139) and such other humanitarian and disaster assistance authorities as may be available to the Department of Defense.

UNHCR requires transportation to Bujumbura, Burundi and Mwanza, Tanzania for a variety of relief material from several storage sites as listed in the attached UNHCR table. UNHCR has prioritized the listing of transportation requests. We request that DoD coordinate with UNHCR to provide timely airlift, and when appropriate, surface/sealift transportation of relief supplies. Upon arrival in Bujumbura and Mwanza, UNHCR will accept the shipment and coordinate forward transportation to areas where thousands of Rwandan refugees have fled. We request that this support be provided as soon as possible given the dire situation in the region.

The Department of State also requests that DoD assume responsibility for coordinating logistical arrangements with appropriate DoD organizations, U.S. Embassies, UNHCR, host government and local authorities. Please note that the Department of State has no funds available for this project.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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REVIEW AUTHORITY:

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The provision of transportation services to ensure the delivery of emergency disaster and humanitarian relief supplies to Burundi and Tanzania for use in assisting Rwandan refugees and displaced persons is consistent with U.S. foreign policy objectives.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.